VIA: COURIER (SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

Lincoln

DISPATCH NO. ~~HGG~~-A-997

CLASSIFICATION

TO : LINCOLN

DATE: MAY 4 1954

FROM : Chief of Station, Guatemala [redacted] INFO: Chief, WHD

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational

SPECIFIC— Rumored Dismissal of ~~CRUZ~~ Wer as Chief of the Guardia Civil

Reference: GUAT 409

Attached for Lincoln and Headquarters is one copy of a memorandum prepared by Mr. William L. KRIEG concerning above subject and dated 29 April 1954.

[redacted]
Clara M. Heagey

30 April 1954

Enclosure:
Memo as noted

CMH/cmh
Distribution:
2-Linc w/att
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1-Files w/att

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2003

SECRET PBSUCCESS RYBAT
CLASSIFICATION

6 MAY 1954

51-28A

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

April 29, 1954

PARTICIPANTS: Sr. Ramón Blanco, Manager of El Imparcial
William L. Krieg, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim

SUBJECT: Dismissal of Cruz Wer as Chief of Police; Miscellaneous Observations

I met Sr. BLANCO at a reception given by Mr. Franz KRELL. Sr. Blanco immediately apologized for having given me misleading information on April 24 to the effect that Colonel Rogelio CRUZ Wer had been dismissed as Chief of Police and that he had refused to turn over his office formally until the return to Guatemala of Colonel Carlos Enrique DIAZ, Chief of the Armed Forces. Sr. Blanco said he still believed there was some foundation for the report and pointed out that, in his statement to the press denying that he had been dismissed, Colonel Cruz had said that he had not been dismissed by the President but made no mention of the Minister of Interior. Sr. Blanco speculated that Sr. CHARNAUD MacDonald, Minister of Interior, had tried to dismiss Colonel Cruz but that the latter had appealed to President ARBENZ and that Arbenz had at the last deferred final action pending Colonel Diaz' return.

After remarking bitterly on the corruption and inefficiency of Government officials, Sr. Blanco said there was one figure connected with the Administration for whom he had great affection: "El Trompudo" (Colonel Carlos ALDANA Sandoval, Minister of Communications). Blanco said that Arbenz had once promised Colonel Aldana that Aldana would be his successor in the Presidency. Since then, both Colonel Diaz and Colonel SANCHEZ, Minister of Defense, had acquired presidential aspirations, and the President had cracked down on those who were working on behalf of Colonel Aldana.

In these circumstances, Colonel Aldana's future was uncertain, and his position within the Administration extremely weak. Sr. Blanco confirmed earlier reports that Colonel Aldana is staying out of the limelight as much as possible and spends much of his time out of Guatemala City. As Blanco put it, "he is lying low to see how things will develop."

cc: AA and MA

WLKrieg:fpb